

To rock, or not to rock?

With two major elections coming up for U of A students, the big question isn't who to vote for—it's whether to vote at all.



jonnkmech

davidjohnston

briangould

conalperse

Just when you thought it was safe to care less about your external environment, it's election season again. With both SU and provincial elections in the next two weeks, times are never better for democracy fanatics to pester people about contributing to the annual harvest of proportional representation and preferential balloting.

Everyone has at least one friend (or maybe you are that friend) who feels that it's their duty to help "get people to the polls" or "rock the vote," as the kids say these days. Like a hanging chad, this democratic annoyance will typically mention—at least once daily to everyone around them in a seemingly noble quest for higher voter turnout—how democracy is a fundamental aspect of a free society and that brave men fought for our right to vote. It's not so much "Vote or Die," then, as it is "Vote or Get A Stern Talking-To."

As for me, I've developed a somewhat different strategy to reap the greatest

rewards of democracy. We should not only stop telling people to vote—we should start encouraging people to not vote.

From an individual perspective, telling more people to vote makes no sense at all. If that person ends up voting, they could vote for anybody, including somebody with policies that you don't agree with. In that respect, getting others to vote just dilutes your own vote. The vote is the ultimate weapon in the war for democracy, and you're most effective when the people around you are disarmed.

There are many shrewd tactics you can use to help frustrate and disillusion people about the process of voting. Remind people constantly of how busy they are and how much time it takes to get informed about all of the candidates—who are just the same clowns as always and will never accomplish anything—as well as the many complicated issues that couldn't possibly affect their lives at all. Treat campaign pamphlets like cigarettes: if you see someone using one, rip it in half and throw it on the ground. On election day, encourage people around you to vote and offer to walk them to the voting booth while you're using the john or a urinal. Nothing is more awkward and unnerving than telling the guy next to you that democracy is a fundamental aspect of a free society and that brave men fought for our

right to vote—all while holding your penis.

This is all a cunning ruse that causes the worth of your own vote to increase substantially. While many people may say such strategies are self-centered, it's really not much different than trying to convince the people around you to vote just to push the candidate that you'd prefer to win. So next time you get noble and preachy about your deep concern for voter apathy, think about your true intentions. Besides, the unfortunate effects of reverse psychology could potentially increase turnout with my plan, but with only one in five students voting, the likelihood of anything anyone says having an impact is minute.

That's why I'm going to keep working on my extensive campaign to decrease voter turnout, "One in Ten by 2010." Statistically, this would double the importance of my own vote. My logic is irrefutable.

—Jonk Kmech

When I was ten, there was a provincial election, and though I don't remember who won overall—or if it made any significance to the province's future—I do recall the candidates in my riding of St. Albert. I remember the candidates because Mary O'Neill beat Len Bracko by 16 votes. 16 votes, people—that's closer than horseshoes, and a tighter race than Florida in 2000. That's a number that could be achieved by having every member of my grandpa's over-60 curling league with a fully functioning renal system vote.

Thanks to my highly impressionable state at the time, the need to vote has

been ingrained upon me for all time. It's like exercising our right to democracy and exercising our dislike for communism. Being a sheep is boring, and voting can make a difference—especially in something like the SU elections.

Say they're simplistic and mindless all you want, but I have known friends who ran for president in the last two years, and I made it my personal duty to be sure to vote just to make sure they didn't get anywhere near the inaugural throne. As lamentable as life on campus currently is, know that it could've been much worse. And since I know someone running this year, I've got my work cut out for me once again.

The point is, it could end up making a difference. I've met Mary O'Neill, and she's a wonderful lady. And a dozen or so people abandoning their apathy could have meant that she wouldn't have helped make St. Albert the filthy-rich city it is today.

—David Johnston

I'm only a few months from graduating, so the SU election is less relevant to me than in the past. But that's not going to stop me from following the candidates, platforms, and results. It looks like there might even be something in it for me too, what with late-night transit as an election issue.

Unlike most people who are at least partly into politics, I'm not concerned with the turnout. Sure, I'm concerned that it represents apathy, but the last thing I'm going to do is pester you with a story about how your ancestors died in some war so you could vote or talk about introducing mandatory elections.

Honestly, if you don't really want to vote and aren't passionate about who or what you're voting for, I don't want you to vote. The last thing we need is another ill-informed vote—and I mean that as much about being informed about reality as being informed about any particular platform.

I voted Conservative in the last federal election. Partly, it was a vote for change, but what scares me is I think I actually bought into some of their arguments. I'm hoping the Bloc take down the government just so I have a chance to rectify that embarrassing mistake—and for those of you who will vote PC on 3 March, there's still hope for you too. All it takes is an open mind—actually taking a look at election platforms is the least you can do.

When I started university, I had this idea in my head that I would graduate with an engineering degree, build some stuff, make sacks of cash, and retire early. I picked my first SU presidential candidates just like my first federal election candidate: mainly on image. I thought the combination of the name "Poon" and a star logo was hilarious; Graham Lettner's Soviet-styled poster was a close second.

But the longer I was in school, the more I realized that things weren't adding up. Engineering shouldn't just be about building what you're told to and making money—not when there are bigger issues at play. I guess it's possible to actually like your job, but I like to think that being concerned with the direction society and humanity are headed is more important.

So figure out what the issues that interest you are, get involved, and start a group to discuss, agitate, or lobby. Find out why you should be happy you pay student fees to APIRG and why you should make an informed vote with the APIRG ballot they give you in return.

I realize we're talking about SU elections and that there are bigger fish to fry. But it's the small elections that are the easiest, and you owe it to yourself to be at least informed enough to vote. In a couple years, you could look back and be embarrassed by who you were—now's the time to learn why that's actually a good thing.

—Brian Gould

I won't lie to you: this is rather hard for me to write because I'm too goddamn apathetic about voting to even tell people how little I care about the subject. To be honest, the whole idea gets me about as excited as a diabetic in a honey factory on toast day. I just don't have it in me to explain myself, so I now resort to saying that I'm voting Green or None of the Above because I look like enough of a hippy to sound credible and the answer is vanilla enough that nobody wants to argue about it.

Truthfully, I'm not informed, and I have no intention of getting informed about any election—and no, this isn't an invitation for you to explain your party's platform to me. The second you start talking, I'll smile, nod, and start thinking about combat-ready bunny rabbits (all you need is duct tape and dynamite—trust me, I've worked out the logistics). As such, I have no business voting, and you shouldn't be encouraging me to head out and pick whoever's name sounds the funniest to me (the answer is Bullwinkle, by the way—that moose is crazy).

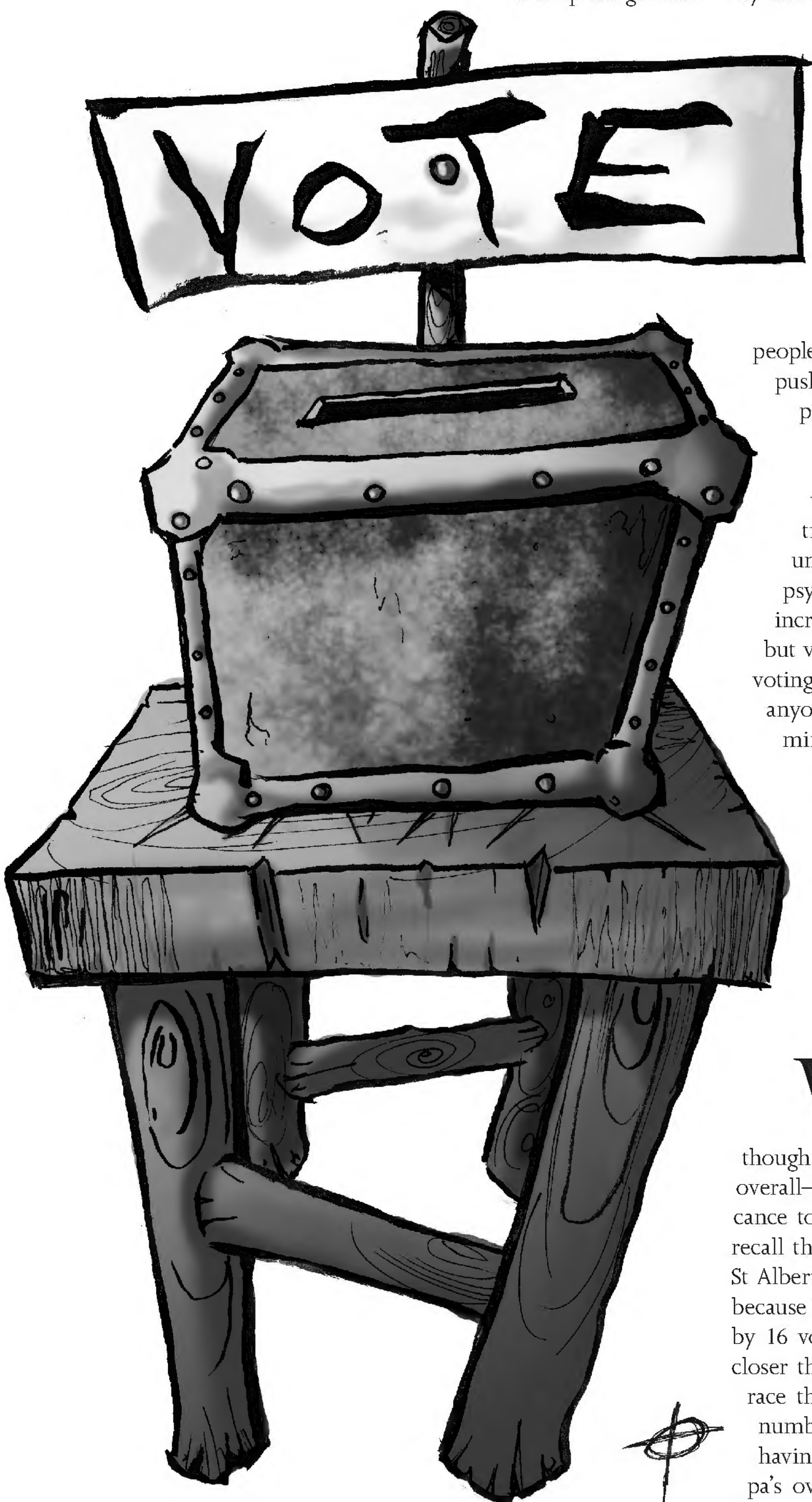
Alberta Elections is also aware that there are people like me out there because they've recently released ads that chide individuals who are too "busy" to vote. Personally, I don't want to hop on a bus to the west end where I'm registered and wait in line with the elderly to vote. That time could be spent much better studying, playing *Call of Duty*, or engaging in a second round of masturbation.

Don't tell me it's the least I can do, either—I've already done the bare minimum in allowing my Liberal friend to plant a lawn-vertisement in the hopes that it will change the minds of passers-by somehow. Sure, I might have entertained the thought of pulling it out of the ground, burning it, and then placing the ashes on his doorstep, but that could be misconstrued as a political statement rather than petty revenge—and the last thing I want to do is extend an invitation for a political conversation.

I also think that I do my part for the SU elections by making fun of campaign posters and by pooping quietly like morning fog while they work on their campaigns outside our third-floor bathroom.

So when you head out to participate in the democracy that our forefathers fought so hard to force upon the Native Americans, understand that I'm doing you a favour by not standing there with a pencil in my hand snickering while I wonder how Bullwinkle is going to survive in politics without the level-headed Rocky to help him out.

—Conal Pierce



QUINN FUREY

Ritter uses his imagination to make written conquests

Touring with his band behind *The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter*, the Idaho rocker isn't constrained to writing about his life



musicpreview

Josh Ritter

With Emm Gryner
Wednesday, 27 February at 7pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

While shivering in the New York cold, Idaho-grown folk-rocker Josh Ritter is a little nervous to start touring in the much more severe Canadian winter. Fortunately, creativity breeds solutions to any problem, and he has a number of potential solutions for our frigid temperatures.

"It's gonna be cold there; we'll have to stick together, huddle in the lobby with some whiskey. It's gonna be fun and rowdy, so people should bring their rowdy shoes—bring their Corb Lund boots."

For those who packed the Powerplant for his show last year, the idea of a foot-stompin' show sets up a radically different concert than what Ritter, then alone, presented. Even though he enjoys the solo spotlight, with his full band in tow this time around, he's not a lone man with a guitar and dimmed lights.

"I love touring on my own. You get so sharp [that] you pick up on all the little things in the room. You pick up everything about the crowd," Ritter says with obvious enthusiasm in his voice. "[But] I do think when you play with a band it can broaden the scope. It can make the highs higher and the lows lower. You have a more dynamic effect right off the bat, but you have to work hard to make sure the concentration is there, that everybody's working for the same thing and pushing the songs forward. When it's all firing, it's just exciting, really. It feels like you're strapped to the front of a locomotive."

An apparent love of performing isn't the only thing Josh Ritter has going for him as an artist. As any fan can attest, it's his heartfelt and imaginative lyrics that have enraptured audiences, and although he writes about things to which most people can easily relate, he stresses that they aren't his personal stories.

"I personally don't like autobiographical song writing; I don't like the idea that I'm being assaulted by somebody's story of their life," Ritter explains. "It's too personal for me. I don't like to feel like I'm reading somebody's diary. If every song in the world is about the girl we just broke up with or [who] just broke up with us, what's the point of that?"

"I think, at a certain point, you have to use your imagination," he continues. "That's when things get really exciting because you can make anything happen in your song. Even if it's a small kind of moment, you can try to turn it into something else by giving it a little twist. For me, that's the fun of it: I get to move all these little characters around and get them in love or kill them off if I want to."

The storytelling element of Ritter's music is clear in his latest album *The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter*. Songs like "The Temptation of Adam" tell clear and vivid stories, but modern folk songs aren't the only things Ritter has been writing. After listing his extensive reading list, he mentioned the writing project on the side.

"I'm working on a novel. It's so different than writing songs. I'm having a blast, [and] it's really great. I'm giving it a shot, and we'll see where it goes."

As much as he may like trying new forms of penmanship, Ritter has plenty of experience performing for a crowd. With full band in tow, his Myer Horowitz show promises to be just as rowdy and unpredictable as the singer-songwriter himself.

Be Kind Rewind a distracted gem

filmreview

Be Kind Rewind

Now Playing
Directed by Michael Gondry
Starring Jack Black, Mos Def, Danny Glover, and Sigourney Weaver

SEAN STEELS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Anyone watching *Be Kind Rewind* expecting a stylistic heir to *Nacho Libre* or even a tight spotlight on the high-decibel antics of Jack Black might be a little disappointed. In fact, the film features perhaps the most well-rounded performance seen from the portly pot smoker since his *High Fidelity* days.

The story centres around a small video rental store owned by a Mr Fletcher (Danny Glover) and located in gritty Passaic, New Jersey. When Fletcher goes away on a business trip, he leaves Mike (Mos Def) in charge of the store. Mike's only instructions are to keep Jerry (Jack Black) out, but things go awry, Jerry becomes magnetized in a bungled and conspiracy theory-mired act of vandalism, and every tape in the store is erased.

Instead of buying new tapes, Mike and Jerry decide that they'll make their own versions of the films, resulting in a series of truly delightful, creative, and low-budget remakes.

If there's someone to thank for these cinematic gems, it's surely

Michael Gondry. The director behind *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and writer/director of *The Science of Sleep* seems to be a never-ending fountain of quirky ways to film the mundane. These ideas escalate from cheaply shot gag scenes to incredible camera tricks.

Despite great on-screen chemistry and creative props, *Be Kind Rewind* feels distracted. The whole film is mired in irrelevant and, in the end, fairly useless subplots.

From *Robocop* to *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Lion King* to *Ghostbusters*, there's no limit to what Mike and Jerry shoot. Their *Men In Black* even comes complete with the memorable scene of their rocket car driving upside down through a traffic tunnel.

The performances given by Black, Glover, and Mos Def throughout the film are also on par with some of their individual best works. Black shares the spotlight comfortably with Mos Def, and screen time is evenly divided: Jerry's bawdy grandeur never completely overpowers Mike's meek, emotive character, and the audience is never left too long without a good laugh. In fact, it's the great

performances from Black and Mos Def that elevate Gondry's innovative shots from art house material to a long-shot for box office hit.

But despite great on-screen chemistry and creative props, *Be Kind Rewind* still feels distracted. The whole film is mired in irrelevant and, in the end, fairly useless subplots.

For example, early on, Jerry and Mike meet Alma (Melonie Diaz), a painfully unfunny and awkward dry-cleaning girl from around the block Alma becomes a staple starlet of their movies and, like clockwork, a love triangle ensues. Well, maybe love triangle is the wrong word: Mike becomes jealous of the non-existent relationship between Alma and Jerry. He finally admits his feeble crush on her just in time for the potential relationship to be swept up in the finale and never mentioned again.

The whole movie is also undercut by strong themes of community cohesiveness and being proud of your neighborhood. Unfortunately, the majority of the community-building scenes are more corny than heartfelt. They're kind of like a bad high-school remake of *Boyz n the Hood*—which, ironically, is actually remade in the film.

Throw in a random and microscopic cameo by Sigourney Weaver as a blood-sucking corporate lackey with these other subplots, and the product is a film with all the triumvirate components of a great movie (good acting, innovative direction, and a great story idea) but which distracts the audience to the point of losing interest.



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Mosh pits no place for the wimpy

Ladies unprepared for the pounding pits should leave moshing to the rest of us



KELSEY
TANASIUK

A&E
Commentary

Ladies, get it together. Seriously. I never thought I'd say this, but you're making me ashamed of my gender. I'm not directing this at all of you though—just an aggravating few known as SGIMPs, or Stupid Girls In Mosh Pits.

It's the stupid girls that are the problem. The delicate ones, dragged most reluctantly into the mosh pits by their infinitely cooler boyfriends. The ones that worry about their hair and get morally offended if someone bumps them. I'm sure these girls don't mean any harm—they just don't know any better. So in the spirit of helping, I've compiled this handy list of tips for ladies who don't fit into the mosh pit scene. Girls, buckle up, because this is your crash course.

First of all, if you, for some poor, sad reason, have never been to a rock show before, please refrain from showing up hours early to get in first and stand right along the the cusp of the stage. It's not that we don't want you to have a good view; it's just that the mosh pit is going to form right behind you, and we're all really, really sick of seeing you crying and getting pulled to safety by security. If any dudes there

express any pity for you, they really just want to get in your pants, so go home and cry there because no one at the show actually cares if you get battered at the front or not.

If you're trying out the mosh pit for the first time, for heaven sake's get out if it starts to scare you. I guarantee you'll look cooler bobbing your head to the beat in the back than you will sobbing and bruised in the arms of your boyfriend.

If you're trying out the mosh pit for the first time, for heaven sake's get out if it starts to scare you. I guarantee you'll look cooler bobbing your head to the beat in the back than you will sobbing and bruised in the arms of your boyfriend.

Attire is also important. When planning to enter a mosh pit, here's what not to wear: flip-flops. If you wear them into a pit, you will lose at least one, and no one likes walking home barefoot. It makes you look like a well-dressed hobo—or Britney Spears.

Dress to move around, and think

of all of the night's possibilities. Wear a sports bra because underwires are known to get badly bent in the pit. It might seem like a rad idea to do your hair up all cute and wear a skirt, but once your hair's been drenched down with some hairy dude's sweat and your skirt's ridden up to your shoulders from crowd-surfing, you just look like a prostitute—and not the expensive kind.

Finally, ladies, if your boyfriend wants to hit up the mosh pit and you aren't interested, just say no. Stick on your own for a couple songs and let him have his fun. There's nothing more annoying to watch than a guy who drags his girl around and tries to pick fights with every drunk guy that bumps her.

The SGIMPs are soiling woman's good, often-hard-rocking name. Their follies are being reflected on the rest of us, and I only hope this run-down of don'ts will help. And allow me to make something perfectly clear for myself and the other mosh pit-savvy girls out there: yes, we might be smaller than you. But guess that means a low center of gravity. We're a lot a lot harder to knock over than one might think.

We aren't afraid to push you; in fact, we enjoy it, so long as it's in the good nature of enjoying some mosh. And while you might be a big burly guy, believe it or not, you aren't going to have to protect us. We're not delicate and are probably more enthusiastic about rattling around in the pit than you are.

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Hinton's strong vision translates into suspenseless *Macbeth*

Despite some chilling visuals and atmosphere the Citadel's production conjures, it all fails to become an absorbing theatrical event

theatre review

Macbeth

Runs until 2 March

Directed by Peter Hinton

Starring Benedict Campbell and

Diane D'Aquila

Citadel Theatre

DAVID JOHNSTON

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Two of the productions playing at the Citadel right now share some remarkable similarities: both are over-the-top melodramas with characters talking at people rather than to them; both seem art-directed first and directed second; both have a bit of trouble deciding where the accents of their choruses should be located; both, oddly enough, contain the expression "Screw your courage to the sticking place." But while these qualities are admirable in the campy fun of *Beauty and the Beast*, they just don't really work when applied to *Macbeth*.

Director Peter Hinton has transplanted Shakespeare's Scottish play to a 1940s World War II scenario with surprising ease. He clearly has a solid vision and goal for the show and puts considerable effort into establishing the atmosphere from the get-go, which works. It's a real mystery, then, why *Macbeth* never gets off the ground.

Benedict Campbell, as the title character, does a good job delivering the various indulgent monologues of the show, despite an incredibly unsettling resemblance to William Shatner. Diane D'Aquila, playing the lady of



the house, wrings countless emotions and subtleties from her unsettling and unsexing threats and speeches. The cast, for the most part—excluding the aforementioned accent troubles—are solid, committed, and visually monochrome. Carolyn M Smith's costumes are visually sumptuous, creating armies with six people, and while I personally hated Sandy Moore's original musical interludes, I can't deny that their jarring and unsettling rhythms communicated the chaos inherent to the story.

And yet it never clicks. It never transcends that line drawn through Shakespeare's canon between good and great. The cast simply can't

communicate well; almost all the lines, from the monologues to the verbal spars, are delivered with the audience in mind. No one talks to each other in this play, and that just sucks the humanity right out.

Hinton's vision comes off as short-sighted when it comes to some of the smaller details, like the witches. No doubt everyone's seen the poster with the creepy identical *Children of the Corn* kids on it. Those are the witches. And for the first half, the haunting kid thing works remarkably well. The three youngsters come across as Holocaust-displaced orphans, with just enough of a hint of the supernatural about them that

Macbeth's paranoia can drive the story the rest of the way. Once the second half starts, however, Hinton's decision to do the final witch scene as a Lynchian dream sequence seemed completely out of place. The open introduction of the fantastic ruins the suspense and disbelief that the kids had been quietly establishing so far. Between smoking trapdoors, talking dolls, a march of dead kings, a topless prophet, and falling, deflated dodgeballs. The only thing more confusing than this five-minute mess is the unsettling and seemingly inaccurate final image of the show.

There's still a lot to like about the play, from the effective minimalist set

to the strong lead performances. But one final suggestion to Hinton and Co: if you're going to have a bloodstain left onstage from *Macbeth's* first murder, that's great; it's a strong image that underlies the guilt in our hero's mind. If you're going to have the entire cast ignore the stain and indeed walk over it for the rest of the show, well, it could work, albeit some of the magic will be gone. But if the lights and setting are going to ignore it as well, suddenly it's not a strong image any more. It's laziness. And that's one quality that I can't stand in any piece of theatre. Not in *Beauty and the Beast* and definitely not in *Macbeth*.

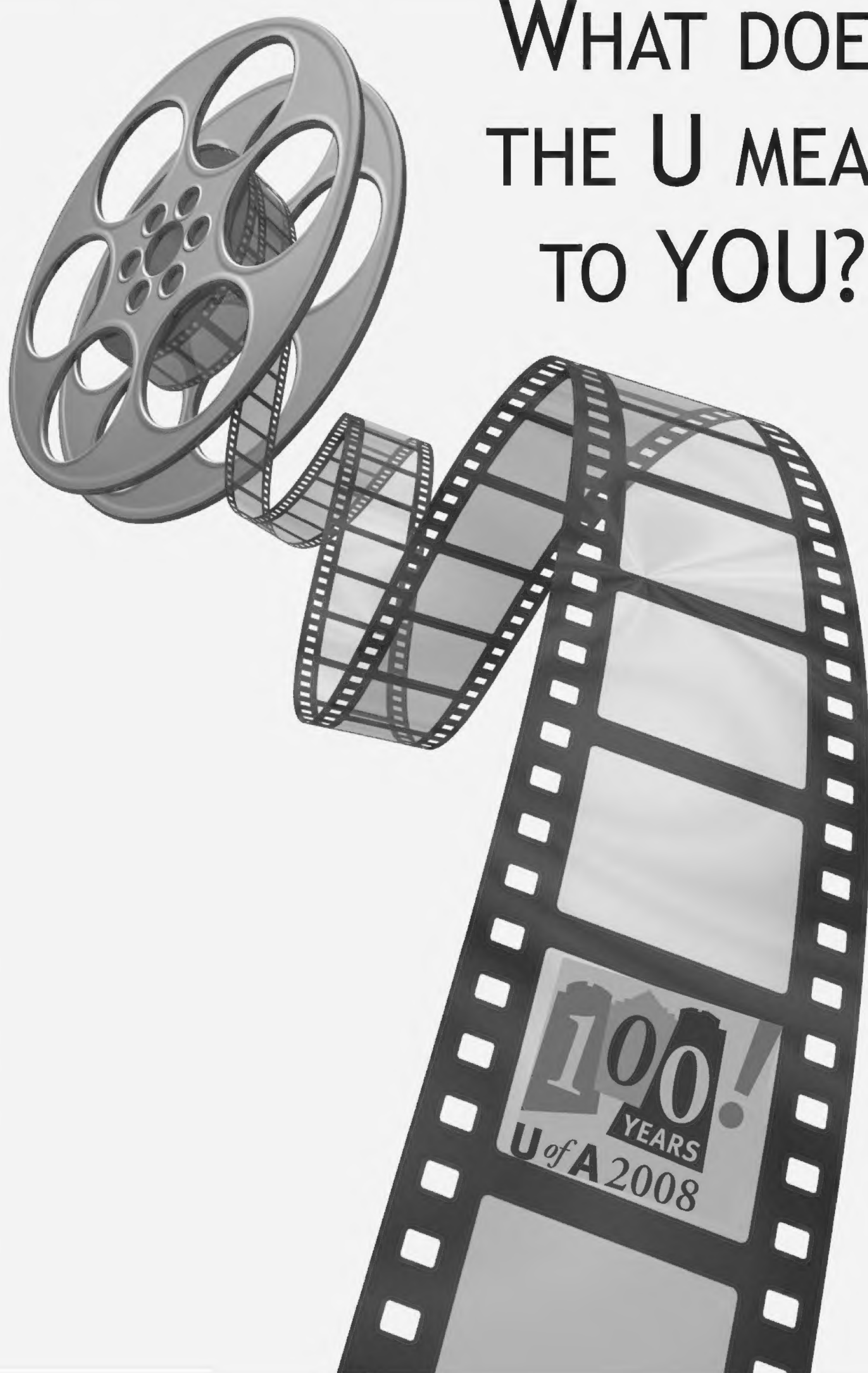
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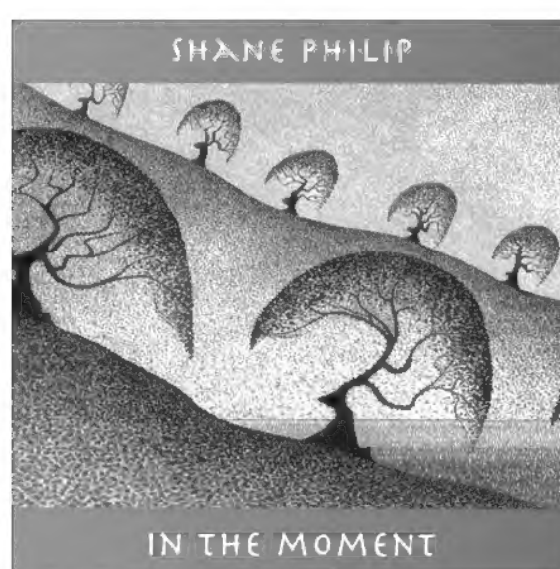
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albumreview

Shane Philip
In The Moment
Independent

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Shane Philip is an ambitious little hippie. The multi-instrumentalist's third album, *In the Moment*, is a shifty creature, trolling the width and breadth of the ever-expanding folk music genre for inspiration. As a result, it would be hard to tell which songs on this whopping 15-track album (16 if you count the hidden track) belong on the same CD, except for two binding characteristics: being a general worship of all

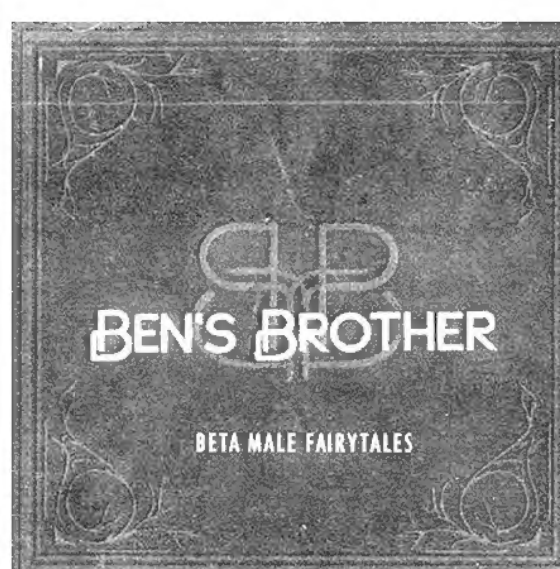
things earthy, and the conspicuous presence of the didgeridoo.

The deep, scratchy moan of this Australian instrument, best known for being fun to say, entwines itself into everything from the reggae-inspired "Same Road" to the gentle guitar picking on "Serenity." Think Bob Marley—with a didgeridoo. Or Jack Johnson—with a didgeridoo. There's even "Push on Through," which seems to be a series of phone

messages left for Philip by like-minded citizens concerned about the environment—set atop a warbling didgeridoo, of course.

As fun as the didgeridoo is (both the word and the instrument), the novelty wears off at around the third listen. Since the rest of the album travels a well-worn path between mild island sounds, toned-down country, and beachy acoustic, Philip is guilty of contributing to musical erosion.

Still, if you dream of going tripping through a field of daisies when spring finally crawls across the Prairies and shakes off the shivers of winter, be sure to load *In the Moment* onto your iPod before you go. However, jaded urbanites be warned: if you need a stiff shot of espresso at even the sight of organic granola, then *In the Moment* is bound to give you hives.



albumreview

Ben's Brother
Beta Male Fairytales
Relentless

GARY ALLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Jamie Hartman is a man truly obsessed with his runner-up status in life. Ben's Brother takes its name from Jamie's experience being forever referred to with respect to his older brother, Ben, and the album title, *Beta Male Fairytales*, is a reference to Jamie's status as the "beta male" in his family. There's very little mention of the rest of the band on either the liner notes or the website, so one can assume they're more of a backing band than

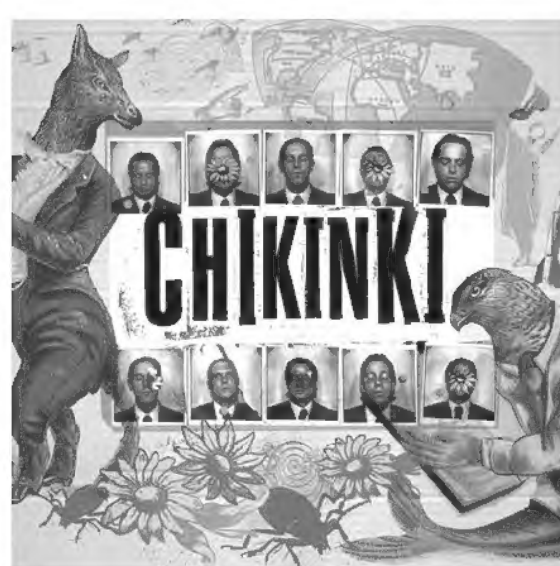
an integral part of the picture—Ben's Brother's Supremes, if you will.

A more apt title for the band might be "Blunt's Brother": while the listener doesn't know Ben from any old Adam, you can almost hear someone at the record label exclaiming "this sounds like James Blunt; let's sign them!" Actually, Ben's Brother is more like a missing evolutionary link between Toploader and James Blunt, which by my math would date them

somewhere around the summer of 2002.

Despite all that, *Beta Male Fairy Tales* is quite good; it's lyrically quirky, and has strong melodies that break down your immediate desire to dislike the album. Surprisingly, even songs with titles like "God With Another Name" and "Find Me An Angel" aren't as annoying as you'd expect. Stand-outs are the lush "Beauty Queen," the deliciously depressing "Let Me Out," and the perfectly understated "I Am Who I Am."

Despite a somewhat dated sound and a cover that looks slightly more 'N Sync-esque than is desirable, *Beta Male Fairytales* is a solid album that is very listenable, if not all that exciting. Beta male or not, any album with a harmonica interlude can't be all bad.



albumreview

Chikinki
Brace, Brace
Weekender Records

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Listeners *should* brace themselves because Chikinki's newest record, *Brace, Brace*, is all that and (as one of their new tracks is called) "Something More."

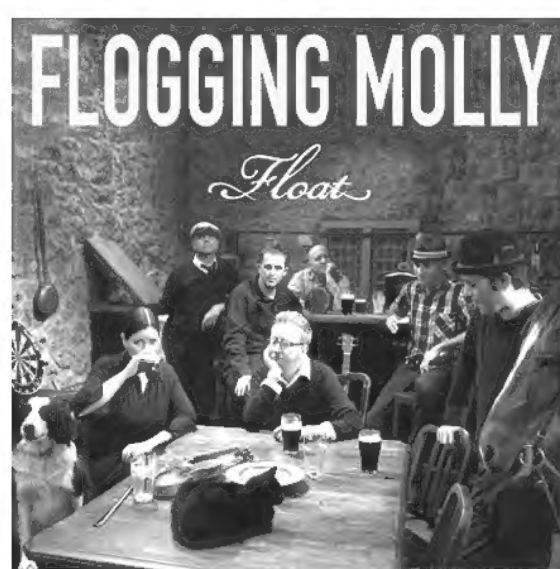
Three years after the groundbreaking success of *Lick Your Ticket*, the British boys of Chikinki have finally released a new album. But the band clearly spent the time perfecting their distinct sound:

Brace, Brace has the same delightfully dark and edgy beats that made *Lick Your Ticket* such an epic album. And like its predecessor, *Brace, Brace* has an abundance of bone-crackling and technically complex riffs, especially within the songs "Oh My God," "Rain," and "Lies All Over My Eyes."

However, the members of Chikinki don't merely rehash their past successes in this newest release.

Tracks such as "Sunrise" and "You Said" take a departure from the usual dark emotion and animal passion of *Lick*, and instead explore a cheerier, civilized side of Chikinki that will leave one with no choice but to dance. Some might even dare say that "You Make it Look Easy," "Talk to the Moon," and "A Little Time" explore the group's previously hidden romantic side.

Most impressive, though, are "Let it Go" and the aptly titled "2 Possible Worlds (Collide)." With these tracks, members of Chikinki masterfully compound their dangerously sharp sound with their newfound optimism and sophistication. Every song of *Brace, Brace* is a fresh gem in Chikinki's crown, but these select few are the ones that will surely become fan favourites.



albumreview

Flogging Molly
Float
SideOne Dummy Records

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Pour yourself a pint and settle down at your favourite Irish pub, and you'll be ready for the fast paced, Celtic punk that Flogging Molly delivers. Their fourth studio album, *Float*, is again jam-packed with songs you can sing and jig to into the wee hours of a Saturday night.

Combining everything from an accordion to an electric guitar, the band delivers a variety of sounds that help carry singer Dave King's Irish voice. In addition to using a variety of instruments, everything is played

very, very fast, living up to their punk inspirations.

"Requiem For A Dying Song" is political anthem like "Drunken Lullabies" that, while pessimistic, is still upbeat. Several other tracks, particularly "Float" and "Punch Drunk Grinning Soul," employ an incredibly catchy violin hook and consistently maintain their frantic pace, except for a brief moment on "Lightning Storm" where a guitar solo is unleashed.

Furthermore, tracks like "Us of Lesser Gods" and "The Story

So Far" convey the band's passion about their identity, heritage, and the good ol' days. Dave King illustrates his personal acquaintance with relationships and disappointment where he sings, "Between a man and a woman / It's everything or nothing at all."

Flogging Molly have created a fun and often political album that makes you want to see the band's intensity live, free from the confines of a recording studio. Though they do take some time to slow down for "The Story So Far" and "Float," these tracks hardly break up the album's furious pace.

Those who were fans of previous work of Flogging Molly will get the same fast, driving, tracks with political and misfortune-themed lyrics.

Float is a consistent album from Flogging Molly, and although no risks were taken by the band, it won't disappoint long-term fans.

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GATEWAY A&E

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Pandas go the distance in Canada West hockey final

Alberta team fight back from three-goal deficit against Manitoba to win in third overtime and collect their tenth conference banner



ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

For the fourth year in a row, the Pandas hockey team hosted the Manitoba Bisons in the Canada West hockey final, and for the fourth year in a row, Alberta won.

The Pandas secured their seventh straight conference banner and tenth overall. The highly-anticipated series between the two best teams in the conference—the Pandas finished the season in first place, with the Bisons a mere five points behind—went to Alberta in two games, but this year's battle was arguably the most tightly fought yet.

Friday's game was gritty, with neither team giving up many opportunities. The Pandas were able to prevail, earning a 2–0 win thanks to goals by forwards Jennifer Newton and Cami Wooster and Dana Vinge's goalkeeping.

But it was the Bisons who came out stronger initially on Saturday: with a 3–0 lead by the six minute mark in the third period, it looked like Manitoba would prevail and force a third game on Sunday. However, fourth-year Alberta forward Lindsay Robinson scored a short-handed goal to launch the Pandas back into the game.

"The short-handed goal was the turning point," Pandas head coach Howie Draper said. "Had we gotten a five-versus-five goal, I don't know if it would have been as much of a momentum-builder for us and a momentum-killer for them. It was a huge goal, it came at exactly the right time, and we were able to build off of it."

Robinson's goal was soon followed by one from Alanna Donahue, and Miranda Miller tied it up with mere seconds to go, launching the game into what would become a marathon overtime fight. It wasn't until the third overtime period—nearly 40 minutes of play later—that Wooster knocked one in on an Alberta power-play and the Pandas won 4–3. They will now advance to nationals, which will be in Ottawa in two weeks.

"We knew that as long as we kept on believ-

ing in ourselves and just got the puck on net that anything could happen," Wooster said. "We've come back in games before, and we're a team that knows how to win, so we knew that we could do it."

"It just showed that our team had a lot of courage. We believed from the beginning, and that's what allowed us to come back."

Draper was impressed by his team's third-period comeback and their endurance.

"They just really dug down deep, and when you get to playoff time, you've got to be able to find a little bit extra, and I think it says something about our team, given that they're as young as they are, it says a lot about their ability to do that. That feels good going into nationals."

The Pandas will be vying for their third straight CIS banner this season, but it's a considerably different team than last year's. Alberta lost the top four scorers in Canada West—Lindsay McAlpine, Tarin Podloski, Jenna Barber, and Taryn Barry—over the summer, and it wasn't a sure thing that Alberta would be able to continue to dominate the conference as much as they had.

But both the rookies and remaining veterans stepped up this season to continue the Pandas' legacy. Newton, in her fourth year, was named Canada West Player of the Year after leading the conference in points, goals, game-winning goals, hat tricks, and shot percentage. She and rookie forward Alana Cabana were named first-team Canada West all-stars. Second-years Leah Copeland and Rayanne Reeve made the second team.

"I always thought that we could be successful, but I guess my expectations weren't as high when we started as they are now," Draper said. "With every game and every weekend that we've played, it became more and more obvious that this team has the ability to accomplish anything that the teams have in the past."

"It's so exciting to know that we're so close," Wooster said. "I know that there's a lot of tradition—we know that as new players—and kind of just want to keep going and build off of it."

PULLING AWAY FROM THE HERD Alberta's 2–0 Friday night win against the Bisons, their main conference rivals, was a cakewalk compared to the penalty-heavy marathon on Saturday evening.

MIKE OTTO

Big hits and smart passing propel Bears to conference win

With all four teams guaranteed a spot at nationals, Alberta men used the weekend to fine-tune their game and refocus after a break

GOLDEN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Bears had nine and a half team blocks on Friday night, made five service aces, and posted a .472 attack percentage. Against the T-Birds, Alberta put up six blocks, nine service aces, and were .412 attacking.

"We had a couple of little spurts, but our middle blockers did a good job of getting touches. Our hitters did a good job percentage-wise," Danyluk said. "I thought that the guys were quite focused, and they played pretty well both nights."

"We have a lot of guys that can hit the ball. [Saturday,] there were four guys with double figures, which means [setter] Brock [Pehar] is thinking and he's spreading the offence around. That's one of the things that makes us hard to play against, if everything is rolling."

Saturday night's game was a letdown for UBC after beating the defending national champions from Winnipeg in four tight sets on Friday night.

"To end on a sour note is kind of disappointing, but for the most part, [the weekend was] not too bad. For us to come out and play that solidly last night, and kind of respond when it came to crunch time, was nice," UBC head coach Richard Schick said

on Saturday.

The T-Birds came closest to beating the Bears in the second set, when they were able to come back from a six-point deficit to tie and even lead Alberta before losing by two.

"Tonight, we had the opportunities. Even though Alberta played extremely well, they sort of led us into it in the second set," Schick said Saturday. "When we have those opportunities, we have to capitalize every chance we have, and tonight, we didn't."

"We didn't put enough pressure on their serve receiving, and they pass the ball extremely well, and we didn't do that on our side of the net. When they pass the ball, they're a tough team to beat because they have talented hitters. It really makes it tough. Last night we had 18 blocks—tonight we had none. That's a telling tale."

Though all the teams in the Final Four were all hoping to take home the banner, the most important thing they were all looking for was more playoff experience. Because all three 2007 CIS medallists were from Canada West, all four of the teams in the Final Four will be headed to nationals in Laval next weekend—a fact that cut down on some of the tournament's suspense.



MIKE OTTO

HOW SWEET IT IS Fifth-year Alberta setter Brock Pehar and his teammates savour their latest Canada West victory.

For Alberta, who enjoyed a bye through the first round of playoffs, the tournament was especially vital.

"It was important to play well," Danyluk said. "We had a weekend off, so that was the main [aim], just to get

the wheels rolling again and to get the momentum going into next weekend."

Alberta right side Joel Schmuland, who had eleven kills on Friday and ten on Sunday, is optimistic about his team's chances at nationals after the

wins over TRU and UBC.

"It's a completely different weekend, but if we come out and play like this all weekend long, I think that, though the games will be closer, we'll have a really good chance of winning it."

Pandas defeat Huskies with last-quarter surge

Win over Saskatchewan in best-of-three Central Division series sends Alberta team to Canada West women's basketball Final Four

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

For the Pandas, the pivotal moment of Sunday's game was the beginning of the fourth quarter: with a fragile five-point lead against Saskatchewan, Alberta knew that if they played the end of the game as they had the previous two nights, their season would be over.

In the first two games of the team's best-of-three Central Division final, the Pandas had been up on the Huskies, only to fall apart in the last ten minutes. Alberta's 20-point lead at the half on Friday cushioned the blow, and they won 64-58, but on Saturday, they struggled to a 66-60 loss.

"[Head coach] Scott [Edwards] said in the intermission between the third and fourth that the fourth quarters in the last two games have been all about them, [...] and we wanted to go out with a bang," Alberta forward Trish Ariss said.

The pep talk made a difference: the Alberta team that took the floor in the fourth on Sunday was completely different than the one that played Friday and Saturday. Aggressive and energetic but relaxed, the Pandas held Saskatchewan to only seven points in the quarter and won the game 72-57.

"It was nice to score in the first minute of the fourth quarter," Edwards said. "It kind of relaxed everyone on the bench, so we knew, 'Okay, it's not going to happen again.'"

Edwards was much happier with his team's play in general on Sunday

compared to the first two games.

"They really toughened up. They rebounded hard; they battled for everything; they scrapped the loose balls, which we need to do. We don't shoot the ball well enough as a team to rely on any one person to knock the shots down for us, so we've got to play team basketball, and I was really proud of them," he said.

"We finally came out with playoff-style basketball."

ASHLEY WIGG
PANDAS GUARD

Huskies head coach Lisa Thomaidis gave the Pandas' physical play a lot of the credit for the win.

"I thought we got the crap beat out of us, actually," she said. "I thought it was way too physical [for us], and we missed ten free throws and didn't make some easy ones.

"We didn't have enough stuff going to the hoop tonight."

Fourth-year Pandas guard Ashley Wigg, who led the game with 17 points on Sunday, said that Alberta's second-half surge was a combination of an improved mental and physical game.

"We had the energy and the adrenaline rushing today; we came together just at the right time," she said. "We had the energy the whole game, but there were a couple things we changed, getting some more stops on

defence. Our offence was pretty solid the whole game, but we really stepped up our defence in the second half and secured the win."

Alberta had much more riding on the weekend series than Saskatchewan. The Huskies will be hosting nationals, so they have an automatic berth in the tournament. The Pandas had to win this weekend to continue their playoff run. Now, it will take just one victory next weekend at the Canada West championships to get them to nationals.

Thomaidis, whose team finished the regular season 9-13, considers this weekend—and last weekend's victory against Calgary—both a learning experience and vindication for her team.

"We felt good about [beating Calgary], and that was obviously an upset in everyone's eyes, and to come in against another good opponent is just another opportunity for us to get better and better before nationals," she said. "They can go beat the crap out of each other for two more games.

"I think we definitely deserve not to be the eighth seed."

The Pandas aren't worried about the toll that next week's games will take; instead, they're focusing on channeling the drive from this weekend's win into the rest of the post-season.

"We finally came out with playoff-style basketball. We came out with adrenaline, we came out with energy, and we're ready," Wigg said.

"That's how it should feel—that energy—it was awesome," fourth-year guard Katie Barrett agreed. "That's how playoff basketball should be played."



PETE YEE

FAR AWAY FROM ME Marissa Haylett struggled to keep control of the ball on Saturday. The Pandas couldn't keep hold of their lead, either, and lost 66-60.

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SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

Black and white Pandas golden too

It was a good weekend all around for Alberta volleyball, as the Pandas—ranked fifth nationally—defeated first-place Manitoba in four sets on Friday in Winnipeg to clinch a spot at nationals. Tiffany Proudfoot and Jocelyn Blair each made twelve kills, and setter Daryll Roper managed 38 assists. Alberta had 13 team blocks.

The next night, the Pandas took Calgary in four sets as well and earned Canada West gold. It's the Pandas' second consecutive conference title. Blair led the game with 19 kills, and Roper put up 43 assists.

Basketball Bears blown away

Victory wasn't in the air for the Bears basketball team in Calgary, however. After beating Saskatchewan in three games at the beginning of Reading Week, Alberta went down to see the powerhouse Dinos, who finished the regular season at the top of the Central Division.

The Bears were unfortunately unable to repeat their January victory over Calgary and lost both games. On Friday, the Bears were ahead by five points at the half, but allowed 30 points in the third quarter and lost 87-78. Neb Aleksic and Alex Steele each put up 20 points.

On Saturday, the Bears trailed through the whole game, ending up with a dismal 90-66 loss. CG Morrison scored 21 points, but the Bears were unable to contain the Dinos' big scorers like Henry Bekkering, who sunk 31 points, or Ross Bekkering and Robbie Sihota, who scored 17 apiece.

The Bears aren't out of the game yet, though. They've earned the wild card spot into the conference finals next weekend.

Alberta rookies jumping for joy

The Alberta track and field teams were in Saskatoon this weekend for the Canada West championships. The women



KATY ANDERSON (THE GAUNTLET)

THE CAMERA ADDS TEN POINTS Neb Aleksic (left) kept his eyes on Calgary's Tyler Fidler, but the Bears couldn't get their hands on the ball enough to win.

earned bronze medals, while the Bears placed fifth.

Conference award winners were also announced on the weekend, and Alberta athletes fared very well. Thrower Matt Doherty was named male Field Athlete of the Year, and male and female Rookie of the Year honours went to Alberta high jumpers Matthew Cordoza and Lindsey Bergevin.

Water way to go

Both the Bears and Pandas swim teams came in sixth overall at nationals this weekend in Vancouver.

Alberta swimmers also brought in three event medals, all of them bronze. The women's 4x200m freestyle relay team came in third on Friday, as did Gavin D'Amico in the 400m free. On Saturday, Brian Yakiwchuk came in third in the

1500m freestyle final.

Put on your wrasslin' shoes, folks

Though their Canada West championships happened the first weekend of Reading Week, the Alberta wrestling squads deserve a shout-out for performing so well. Both sides, but Pandas in particular, have been trying to recover from what have been a couple of slump years, and based on these results, it looks like they could be well on their way.

The Pandas will be sending a pair of rookies, Marielle TerHart and Katherine Martin, to nationals, while four Bears earned spots. Bram Ratay, Steven Thatcher, Mike Hulbert, and conference male Rookie of the Year Mike Asselstine will represent the Green and Gold. Nationals are in Calgary this coming weekend.

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The world of politics is a cutthroat place where lines are drawn and choices are limited. There's no having it both ways when dealing with questions like Obama or Clinton, Democrats or Republicans, PCs or Liberals, or even voting or not voting—and you can't even get away with sharing a drink with someone lest they turn out to be a lobbyist or a wanted criminal or both.

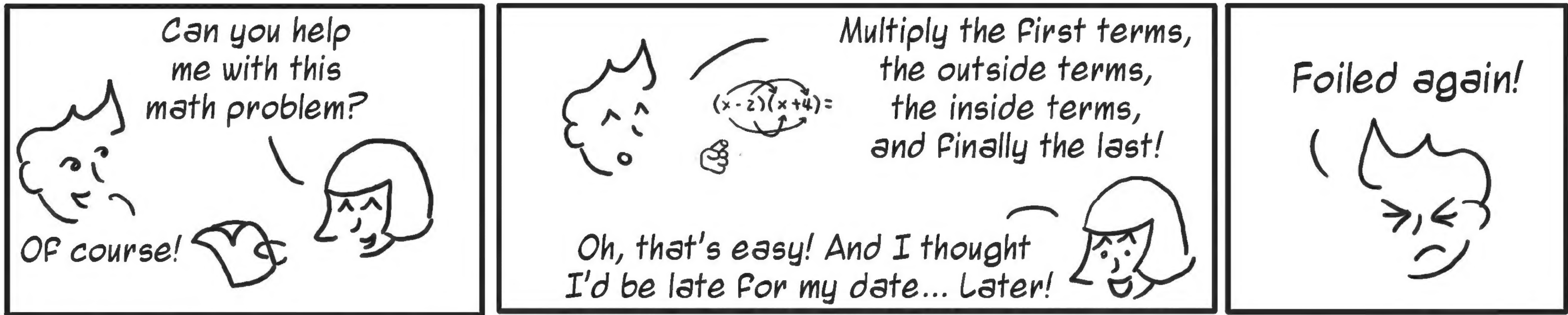
At the *Gateway*, we like to offer you more choice. Whether you want to interview the hottest rock stars, take photos front and centre at a hockey game, lampoon evil dictators in cartoon form, or even just join us from a brainstorming session in RATT, we can make it happen. Hell, we can even let you do all four. So stop by a section meeting, email managing editor Paul Owen at managing@gateway.ualberta.ca, or just stop by our office in 3-04 SUB and see what's up.

BALLOT

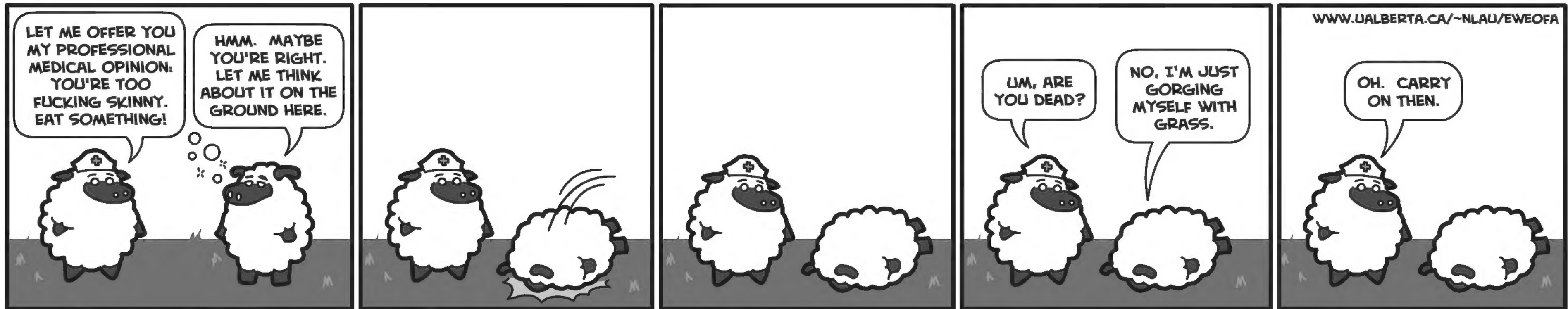
- ☒ **NEWS** FRIDAYS AT 3PM
- ☒ **OPINION** THURSDAYS AT 4PM
- ☒ **A&E** THURSDAYS AT 5PM
- ☒ **SPORTS** TUESDAYS AT 4PM
- ☒ **FEATURES** MONDAYS AT 3PM
- ☒ **PHOTO** FRIDAYS AT 4PM
- ☒ **ILLUSTRATION** WEDNESDAYS AT 4³⁰PM

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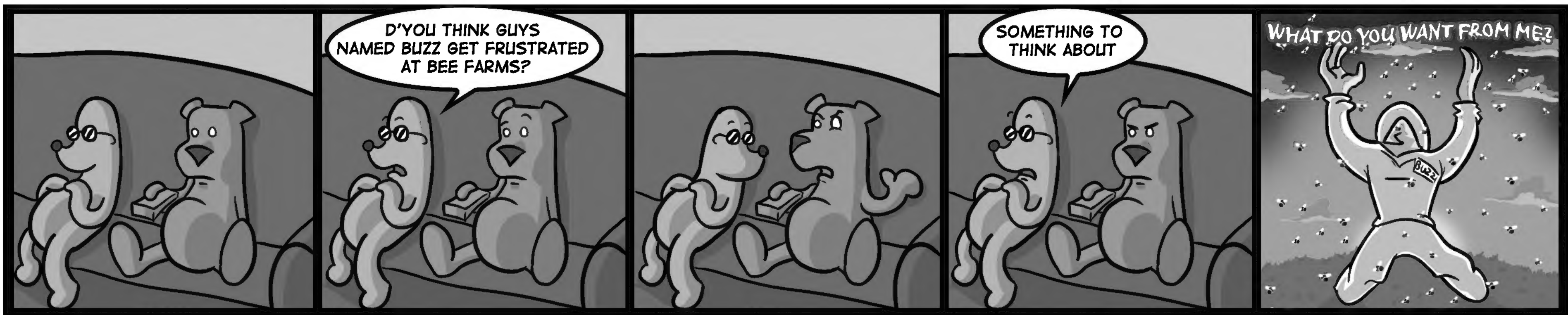
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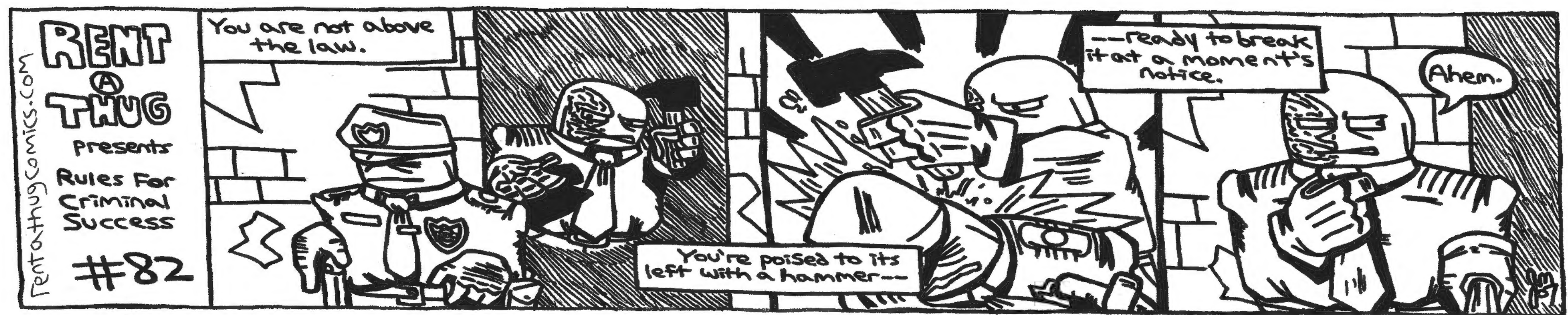
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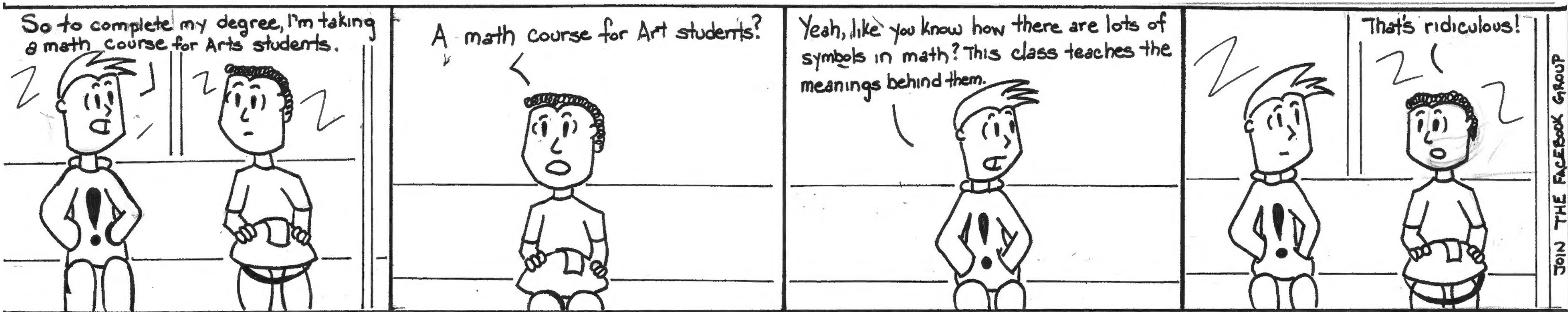
MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierce



RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



OVERHEARD AT THE U OF A by Matt Lui



20/20 by Evan Tanasiuk



THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 35 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 26 february, 2008

Volleyball Bears sweep for Canada West gold



ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

If there had been any doubts why the Bears volleyball team finished at the top of the Canada West standings in the regular season, they were silenced this weekend. Alberta, ranked number one in the country, took home their third Canada West banner in four years on Saturday night.

The Bears swept the Thompson Rivers WolfPack 25–19, 25–17, and 25–14 on Friday night to advance to the gold-medal match against UBC. The Thunderbirds—in third place going into the playoffs—proved no match for an Alberta side at the top of its game. Though the first two sets were tight, going 25–19 and 26–24 to the Bears, UBC succumbed to the pressure in the third, losing 25–11 and settling for silver.

Alberta's strengths—power, tactics, and depth—were all on display during the tournament.

"I think this weekend, the things that we [will] need to do, [we] showed. I can't pick a bad performance from the guys who played this weekend," Alberta head coach Terry Danyluk said.

MIKE OTTO

REACHING FOR GOLD The Bears volleyball team (yellow) reigned supreme this weekend, capturing their third Canada West conference title of the past four years.

PLEASE SEE **GOLDEN** ♦ PAGE 15

University of Alberta School of Business increases international ranking by 13 spots

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

The University of Alberta's School of Business has managed to outshine its Canadian counterparts by rising 13 spots in the 2008 *Financial Times* global rankings of Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programs.

The rankings, released last month, show that the School now sits in a tie for 88th spot among the world's top 100 leading MBA programs. It also clocked in as the largest increase in rankings amongst Canadian business schools.

Dean of Business Mike Percy expressed his satisfaction at the U of A's rise in the rankings and the importance of assessing performance on a global level.

"We're very pleased with the growth in our rankings, and we were pleased that we were the only school that leapt 13 ranking spots," he said.

"We engage in rankings primarily with the *Financial Times* in London because it allows us to benchmark ourselves against the global best—not the best in Canada, not the best in the US, but globally."

The School of Business is ranked as the fourth best business school in



RUTH MCGAFFIGAN

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS Dean Mike Percy discusses his school's success.

Canada, sitting behind the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, Canada's highest ranking program at 40th place; the Schulich School of Business at York University; and the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

The rankings order schools based

on how they meet 21 different criteria, ranging from salary of graduates to the percentage of female students and international students at each school. According to Percy, the *Financial Times* criteria are especially relevant to the U of A and its focus on research.

PLEASE SEE **BUSINESS** ♦ PAGE 2

electioncentral

The Gateway has you—and elections—covered. Starting today, we'll be bringing you two straight weeks of election coverage, at which point we can all safely resume being apathetic again. Here's a breakdown of what's coming up:



YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW ALL OF OUR ELECTION COVERAGE ON OUR WEBSITE—JUST GO TO WWW.THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/ELECTIONS

today

- SU candidate Q&As part 1: Interviews with candidates for VP (Student Life), VP (Operations and Finance), and BoG rep

thursday 28 february

- SU candidate Q&As part 2: Interviews with candidates for VP (External), VP (Academic), and SU President
- Election Dissection: Provincial Edition

tuesday 4 march

- Election Dissection: SU Edition

thursday 6 march

- The Poster Slam! Our merciless panel of jaded student journalists tears down what the SU candidates have put up.
- **PLUS:** exit polls from Wednesday's ballots

friday 7 march

- Extra! Extra! It's the Gateway's second-annual Election Special! We'll be distributing a limited run on Friday morning to keep you informed of the final results. Make sure to grab your copy before they're all gone.

Inside

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Ballot box overload

Even though you're not going to vote, it's your civic duty to read this so you can backtalk to the poli sci kids.

OPINION FEATURE, PAGE 10



Josh's novel approach

Songwriting isn't the only style of penmanship that Josh Ritter's been exploring these days.

A&E, PAGE 11

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gateway student journalism society

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is seeking one student-at-large member for its board of directors effective immediately. Applicants should be undergraduate students who are not members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the University Board of Governors, or the University Senate.

The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

Applications should be sent to Gateway Business Manager Steve Smith at biz@gateway.ualberta.ca on or before February 29.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca or visit www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj



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complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that appeals to the non-partisan Society OmbudsBoard. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Acrobat is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Masthead of the Gateway is a poster paper, and a one-of-a-kind, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of chance are Professor Layton and the Curious Village and The Quest A Little Scavenger Hunt.

contributors

Cody Civerio, Sam Brooks, Kristen Goruk, Allison Gramam, Scott Fenech, Jonathan Taves, Cory Tokay, David Johnston, John Kmetz, Brian Gould, Jennifer Huijgen, Sean Steeles, Kathleen Bell, Scatman John Gary, Allen Bryan Saunders, Vanessa Horne, a scatman, Paul Knoechel, Demando—clump on of everything, unreasonable Norman Law, Jeff Martyn, Ross Lockwood, the Monopoly Man, Quinn Furey, Matt Lue, Alan Tanasiuk, Pete Yee, Ruth McGaffigan, Sam Brooks, Tara Stegitz.

CAMPUS
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civerio

HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS WANTED
FOR STEALING SNACKS

At 9:00am on 4 February, Campus Security investigated a break-in at a merchant in the Tory-Business Atrium. Sometime over the weekend, unidentified suspects gained entry into the shop and stole numerous snack items. The investigation is ongoing.

LOCK UP WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE

On 5 February, Campus Security received a report of a locker break-in in the Medical Sciences Building. A subsequent investigation revealed that a total of six lockers had been broken into in the area. If you had your locker broken into and haven't yet reported it, please contact Campus Security.

THEY ALWAYS HAVE THE BEST DRUGS

On 4 February at 6:30pm, a driver reported that he had nearly struck an intoxicated male on 114 Street near the Health Sciences BRT. Shortly afterwards, Campus Security peace officers found the male attempting to gain access to the Clinical Sciences Building. The male was well known to Campus Security and was arrested for trespassing. He was subsequently issued a summons for the offence and transported downtown to the Hope Mission for some food and a place to stay.

STIFF STAFF MEMBER

At 2:30am on 9 February, CSS

responded to an alarm in a closed Cameron Library computer lab. A male was discovered inside using a computer to view illicit websites in contravention of University policy. The male, who identified himself as a former staff member, was advised that he was banned from all University computer labs and was sent on his way.

OPENING UP A CAN OF SUCKER PUNCH

On 9 February at 10:44am, Campus Security responded to the report of an assault in HUB Mall. The complainant stated that an unidentified male had punched him in the face and had then run into a stairwell. Officers located the man, who was known to CSS, and arrested him. EPS was contacted and subsequently charged him with assault.

LET'S GET BIZ-AY

On 10 February at 12:30am, a Campus 5-0 auxiliary officer discovered a group of unaffiliated people having a party in a classroom in the Business Building. The partygoers had caused a significant amount of damage to the classroom. CSS officers arrived and attempted to take the group into custody. A female suspect resisted arrest and was charged with assaulting a peace officer. Three suspects were charged by the EPS with mischief. Damage to the classroom is estimated at over \$5000.

"NO STAIRWAY?"

On 16 February at 2:00pm, CSS peace officers observed a male sleeping under a stairwell in Education. The man, who was well known to both CSS and the EPS, was wanted for trespassing. The man was subsequently charged again with trespassing and turned over to the EPS.

Ranking increase very relevant to U of A—Percy

BUSINESS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is one that is really based on criteria that we think are relevant for a research-intensive business school and a research-intensive university," he said, adding that it also gives them "a way of benchmarking how we're doing in research relative to our peers, how we're doing in aims achieved by our alumni, how are we doing in terms of percentage of female faculty relative to peers."

"First of all, a good business school is more than just the MBA program. We look at the other elements of what we do as being very important."

MIKE PERCY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS DEAN

The school ranked 37th in terms of research and 23rd in the world in terms of value for money, defined as the growth of salary relative to the cost of the program.

When asked about factors contributing to the 13-spot rise in the rankings, Percy attributed much of the leap to luck.

"I think partly, sometimes, luck

goes your way," he said. "There's a number of indicators that go into this, and [a lot of] clustering [between] the bottom 50 in the top 100 programs in the world. So slight changes in one or two indicators could lead to big changes in ranking."

Percy also suggested that the results of the rankings can be affected by considerations like geography and funding, especially when comparing western business schools to those in Ontario and major metropolitan centres worldwide.

"Salaries in Alberta are relatively low in terms of before-tax nominal income, relative to those in Toronto, Vancouver, London, New York," he said.

"Partly, some of the schools that do very well in these, like Harvard, I think their endowment is about \$18 or \$20 billion," Percy said. "So if we compare ourselves to full-service, publicly funded institutions, we rank in the top 35 in the world."

He also pointed out that the MBA rankings only show a small slice of what the school is about. The School of Business also has an undergraduate program of 2100 students and the second-largest doctoral program in Canada, with 70 students.

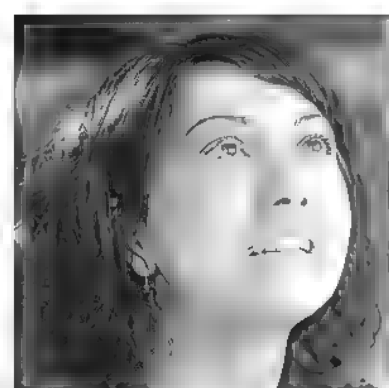
"First of all, a good business school is more than just the MBA program," he said. "We look at the other elements of what we do as being very important."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, Kevin Taft has promised to reduce tuition by an average of \$1000 per student if his Alberta Liberals are elected on 3 March.

If you were a provincial politician, what promise would you make to woo the university vote?

Saima Butt
Arts IIColette Tercier
Phys Ed IMarielle Terhart
Arts IMarcus Cunningham
Science IV

I don't know. I actually like his plan on tuition. It affects everybody, and I agree with him. I just hope he actually does it.

Free food, free booze, whatever I could to make people like me.

I think tuition's a good one. I know a lot of my friends pay for their own university, and so do I, so if that was \$1000 less time I have to work during the summer, that would be great.

Reopen the tunnel system beneath the university. I don't know if that would work; it would be like promising university students that they could be raped every night. Actually, I would promise them all berths on the International Space Station after graduation.

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The word ‘like’ is, like, here to stay

U of A professor still finds relevance in her 13-year-old research on the informal use of the word ‘like’, illustrating how fluid our language can be

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

13 years after then-University of Michigan graduate student Jennifer Dailey-O’Cain researched the uses of the word “like” in informal speech, it appears as though the term isn’t going anywhere.

Now an associate professor in the department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the U of A, Dailey-O’Cain has found that her research hasn’t lost relevance. She explained that studies examining the use of “like” are still being conducted, and there are plenty of reasons why.

“It’s an interesting, marked, observable, and measurable recent change,” explains Dr John Considine, associate professor in English and Film Studies at the U of A. “Linguists are thinking about language variation through time and from one group to another.”

Considine adds that although sometimes frowned upon, the use of “like” fulfills specific functions in language—that it isn’t being used randomly or incorrectly. As with all grammar, “like” follows certain rules.

After Dailey-O’Cain noticed this trend, she too became interested in the functions of the word and how it’s used in speech.

Her research was three-fold in design. She used a quantitative approach to look at the actual usages

of “like,” allowing her to compare instances where the term was used and where it could be used. She then studied perceived thoughts about its use in spoken language.

“It wasn’t about how it was actually used; it was how people thought it was used, whether people thought women or men used it more, younger or older people, that sort of thing,” Dailey-O’Cain explained.

The final study employed the “matched guise” technique: four people’s voices were recorded, and then two sets of each recording were made—one with the “likes” digitally removed. The four people were given two guises, and test subjects were told there were eight people.

“Then you really know that what they’re reacting to is the ‘like’ and not some other aspect of the person,” she said.

The listeners were asked about the perceived education levels and friendliness of the people on the recordings, and according to Dailey-O’Cain the multiple recordings of the same person made certain that people weren’t reacting to other aspects of the recordings.

“The guises were associated with the speakers seeming more attractive, cheerful, friendly, and, believe it or not, successful. [But] they also seemed less educated,” she said.

Jessie Loyer, a third-year English student, admits to being guilty of

using “like” around her friends, and says she’ll notice when others use it as well.

“If someone in authority, such as a professor, uses ‘like’ too often, I just doubt their authority and look elsewhere for a professional opinion.”

Although Considine hasn’t noticed an overly increased use of “like” among his students or colleagues, he understands Loyer’s position.

“These new uses of ‘like’ do annoy some people who value the conservative use of English,” he says.

For those who are using “like” in their speech, there’s a perfectly good explanation. As Dailey-O’Cain points out, it serves two purposes in our language.

“The first thing it does is it serves as a focuser. It says that the next thing that I say after this ‘like’ is what I want you to focus your attention on,” she explained.

The other is its grammatical function as a quotative: it can be used before quotes, direct or otherwise.

Like it or not, “like” is useful and Dailey-O’Cain is confident that it will continue to adapt and endure the test of time.

“One of the things that make this topic so exciting is that language change usually happens quite slowly—you compare generations. But with ‘like,’ it’s happening really fast; it’s changing every three or four years.”

Faculty of Arts grads get a new career resource

ALLISON GRAHAM
News Writer

A new career development officer position for the Faculty of Arts is trying to ease the minds of job-hungry students and antsy employers who may have previously subscribed to the myth that an arts degree can’t get you a job.

Amber Nicholson, who received her BA and MA degrees from the U of A, is working with employers and Arts students in order to spread the word that an arts degree is as employable as any other.

“My role is to meet with employers to generate and grow career opportunities for Arts students and also to ensure that students are aware of the value and employability of the skills that they’re gaining during their liberal arts education,” Nicholson said.

The idea of the position, which was mainly a result of student encouragement, was initiated by the Collective Body for Arts Students (CBAS), the Career and Placement Services Office (CAPS), and the Faculty of Arts’ Dean’s Office. So far, the focus is on informing Arts students about career options through job-oriented programs like career forums, the Arts Career Network Internet newsletter, and the new Rapid Resumé Review service.

“It’s a service for students that students requested,” Nicholson said, adding that this movement to help students couldn’t be happening at a better time, as employers are eager to hire new graduates.

“Employers are actively recruiting right now and are very interested in the skill set that Arts graduates have,” she said.

Acting dean of Arts Gurstan Dacks, who took part in the formation of the career development officer position, said he too has been aware of the necessity of educating students and



SAM BROOKS

HERE TO HELP Amber Nicholson is on hand to help Arts students find work.

employers of their options.

“The Arts’ Students Association, which was the predecessor to our current CBAS [...], felt that Career Placement Services did a lot of things very, very well, but that arts students didn’t adequately appreciate how to translate their experience in arts into job-related language or understanding and, indeed, that employers weren’t able to do that either,” Dacks explained.

Both Nicholson and Dacks expressed the importance of Arts students taking advantage of their skills, but said that it’s equally essential to continually inform employers about what Arts students can offer, even with the growing number of employment options.

“The ideas that the career development officer is going to be disseminating out there hopefully will begin to change the broad culture, which is not necessarily hostile to an arts degree but rather uninformed about it, and so it will assist the arts degree to take its place among degrees that people just intuitively understand lead to jobs,”

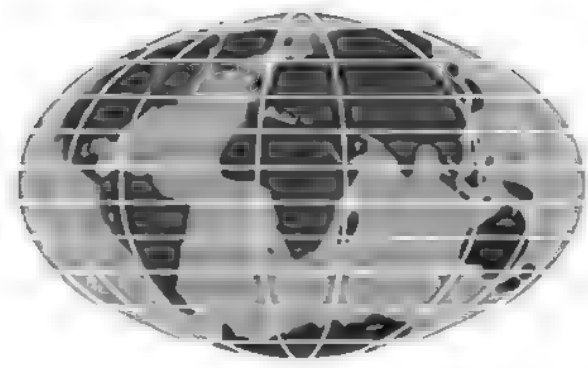
Dacks said.

However, if both employers and graduates are becoming ready and willing to encourage an arts degree in the workplace, it’s difficult even for faculty members like Nicholson and Dacks to understand why there is still the misconception that arts grads can’t find jobs.

“The arts degree does not automatically and transparently attach to a particular occupation the way nursing or education does, so it’s superficially logical to imagine that [...] there aren’t jobs, and that’s because people are thinking in terms of disciplines, not in terms of skills,” Dacks added.

It is this way of thinking that the new career development officer is hoping to change, and by creating various programs to show employers and students the employability of an arts degree, Nicholson is positive that her new position has a lot to achieve.

“There’s lots of evidence for employability for arts students, [and] I would like to think that this will help get that message out to students,” Nicholson said.



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Current SU President Janz sole contender for Board of Governors rep

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) is the highest governing body of the University and is responsible for setting tuition levels, managing campus finances, approving new buildings, and setting the strategic direction of the University of Alberta.

Compiled by Jonathan Taves

1 How will your experience as SU president improve your abilities on the BoG?

As president this past year, I've had the opportunity to meet all of these different members, to actively speak with them, to speak up on behalf of undergraduates. [...] Now, as board rep, I'll be able to take the experience from this year and not only be able to have a stronger voice on the board for students, I'll be a resource to the new president to help them at the board.

2 Why did you decide to run for the BoG?

I have another year left, and I have a couple axes to grind. I want to make

sure some of the things we started doing this year, some of the questions that we raised to the university, do get answered. [...] Our biggest weakness is we lose our institutional memory each year, whether it's on Council, at the Board of Governors, through our elected officials [...] so I want to remain involved a bit and help bring more experience to Council to help guide the Student's Union for another year.

3 What are your goals for the university during your upcoming term on the board?

I still believe affordability is a huge issue for students, and I want to make sure that we keep looking. If we're paying more, are we getting more? Where are these dollars going? Are they going into the classroom? Are they going to pay for new professors and more spaces?

I want to make sure that these questions that I have and that we have been asking for the past few years continue. We've been told for ten years that tuition increases happen because we need to pay for increased quality, but when we

look at the numbers, we have even less professors than we did a decade ago. It doesn't make sense.

4 How do you think the operation of the BOG could be improved?

With something referred to as the [public-member] audit committee, we only see the outcomes. We don't get to go through the meat and potatoes. We had "dare to deliver," a four-year institutional plan for this university, created a year and a half ago. We still haven't seen [...] the deliverables for where this is going to be. We say we want to be "top 20 by 2020," but we haven't been given a roadmap of how we're going to get there. It's frustrating. So I think we need a much higher degree of accountability at the board and a stronger student voice.

5 How would you survive the Zombie apocalypse?

I would reason with them and try and see why they're so upset. If they're upset over SU corruption, I may try and join them and tighten up our bylaws.



PETE YEE

READY FOR ANOTHER ROUND Janz has his eye set on beating 'none of the above.'

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THE VPSL PORTFOLIO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-academic matters such as planning campus events, working with residences, and advocating for students' health and well-being on campus.

Compiled by Scott Fenwick

1 What ideas do you plan to implement for next school year?

Kristen Flath: I would really like to implement some initiatives toward promoting a greener campus. That would include getting rid of the styrofoam within the SUB businesses and replacing it with something more sustainable. As well, that would also include making sure that we're being accountable to our ethical purchasing policies by investigating the way we're doing business right now.

Some other initiatives I would like to work on is building a closer relationship with residences and giving them the support they need to provide a service to students. As well, I would also like to work towards a health plan for students with an optional opt-out.

Alena Manera: Every VPSL candidate comes in with a different vision of what the portfolio is, and there's no continuity in that sense. The position entails a spectrum of things, but there's no definite purpose for the portfolio. Still, I think VPSL is a programmer, an advocate, a manager, and I want find a way to tie that all together. The lowest common denominator is making sure that people leave with more than a degree—making sure that their time on campus is positive and as enriched as they want it to be. So it's really finding a real definition of the portfolio I'm going forward with.

Sean McQuillan: I believe the greatest thing we're facing right now is a lack of campus community. So one of my many ideas is just providing students with the tools and resources they need to get whatever they want done. Part of that is with a student group venue I want to implement. Also, the revitalization of the old Powerplant. Additionally, the student group office space needs to be reworked and redone.

Another thing to go on that is the U-Pass, which is something that has been serving students now for a year but hasn't been serving them adequately. I believe any kind of petition from Students' Council to get increased frequency and increased service hours would benefit students greatly. Pretty much that, and any kind of exploration into some kind of health plan. There's a lot of other things I'm looking into. I'm just open-minded right now at this point on what exactly I need to do.

2 How do you plan to get students involved in major campus events outside of Week of Welcome and AntiFreeze?

Flath: I would like to see more support for student groups, especially in the way of events. They have shown in the past year the variety and the quality of the events they can put on. For example, the pumpkin drop that we had



PETE YEE

A TRIO OF HOPEFULS Sean McQuillan (left), Kristen Flath (centre), and Alena Manera all want your support in their quests to be elected as VP (SL).

was widely attended by students, and that was a student group. If we can provide them with the resources and funding that they need to put on events to get students involved on campus, I really think we can work towards creating a stronger campus community.

Manera: As a member of the Programming Committee since 2006, student involvement in SU events was something I personally struggled with. I think when tackling the issue of programming, we have to look to student groups, the power of student groups. LHSA's Rez Fest, the BSA's beer gardens—these are huge events put on by student groups. If elected, I would encourage partnerships with student groups and the Students' Union to work towards that "for students by students" ideal.

McQuillan: The best way to get the campus at large is to make it available readily right now. The registration process or any kind of information for any of these events are out there, but only in an indirect fashion. If this is something that is brought to each student directly with information regularly, it may be something they may be willing to participate in. Forms or surveys I believe can be released at the beginning of the year [...] can find out what exactly are students interested in and find out how many would like to participate in Week of Welcome or AntiFreeze. These are things that are consistently being done and need to be expanded upon. It's just a year-to-year basis to take it.

3 There's the perception that the VP (Student Life) isn't active in between events like WoW and AntiFreeze. What aspect of the VPSL position is most important?

Flath: I would really like to see a stronger position of the VPSL on issues of non-academic advocacy. That includes working with the residences and promoting a greener campus and initiatives such as this that fall under the VPSL portfolio [but] often aren't as strongly supported. I would also like to see the VPSL continue to play a strong role in services throughout the year. That includes services that

are providing support to student groups [such as] the Student Distress Centre. Initiatives such as that make a difference in the life of students and need support from the Students' Union.

Manera: That question is based off a traditional idea that the position is built upon three pillars. I don't see it that way—I see it built as one pillar, which is enhancing the undergraduate experience. Programming, non-academic advocacy, services—those are just tools in the toolbox that the VPSL uses to accomplish that one goal and, that being said, I don't think you can cherry-pick tools. I think that you have to use them all or you're really doing a disservice to students.

McQuillan: Well, I'm not running for VP (Arts and Crafts) here. This is something important to me. This is about all aspects of student life, which includes campus community and anything that serves our needs. The other aspects I really want to look into is all the services that we provide. The Students' Union provides over 20 services, and many of them students are not aware about. Getting people more aware and getting people more active into what we can provide for the campus at large is something that I'm extremely passionate about.

4 The SU has set up a committee to investigate the future of the Powerplant. How important do you think non-academic social space such as the Powerplant is to students, and how do you think the SU should move forward with the Powerplant?

Flath: Non-academic social space is incredibly important to students. We have seen in the past little while, especially in the past year since the 'Plant has been closed, a shift from events being on campus to off campus because they don't have an affordable place to hold them. So if we could get that student space back, it really increases the ability of the students to hold events for students. I would really like to see possibly a shift of moving Cue over from the basement of SUB into the Powerplant to draw students back into the 'Plant and increase student group space in the basement of SUB.

Manera: The current idea floating around the SU right now for the Powerplant is excellent. It's going to provide bookable student space, and it's going to relocate Cue to the Powerplant, which is excellent because that gives us the space in the lower levels to do a redesign, and that will give things like the Campus Food Bank adequate space. That being said, the Powerplant redesign's still a ways off. I'm more concerned about the interim solution. RATT and Dewey's are too small. No one can afford to rent Dinwoodie. What are we going to do for student groups to make sure that they're running efficiently? We're either going to have to lower the cost of Dinwoodie, or we're going to have to appeal to the University for some space. We can't leave student groups in limbo like that. They need that space to run efficiently.

McQuillan: Because we're primarily a commuter campus, many people go to class and they go home. Having non-academic student space is essential for any form of campus community. Ensuring that something like the Powerplant is used appropriately to serve the needs to the students, especially the student groups, is something I think needs to be looked into much further.

5 How are you going to survive the Zombie Apocalypse?

Flath: I have wooden stakes in the back of my car. I'm going to attack with full force.

Manera: I've been playing a lot of video games lately, and one of the video games I've been playing is *Zombies Ate My Neighbours*. And I can tell you with the utmost confidence that I would not survive the Zombie Apocalypse. I wasted all my lives on that level with that hedge maze and chainsaw guy. I fail at that game and, therefore, zombie apocalypse.

McQuillan: I have already provided myself with a large number of rations and several shotguns in the basement of CAB. I figure it's the best amphitheatre to defend myself in.

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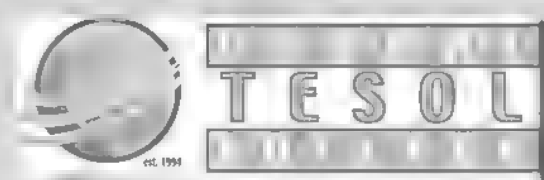


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TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

Money's on the mind of VP (Operations & Finance) candidates

WITH A \$9.1 MILLION BUDGET, THE Vice-President (Operations & Finance) has the responsibility of ensuring that the day-to-day operations of the SU's businesses and services run as smoothly as possible. This year, two individuals are vying for the position.

Compiled by Cory Tokay

1 What do you think about the denial of funding to programs or services that are popular with students?

Steven Dollansky: I think we need to take a careful look at which services are being utilized by the most students and make sure we're funding those services accordingly. I think that there's room for us to improve the visibility of our services in order to engage more students, and specifically with Bear Scat. I think we need to maintain a professional working relationship with the operator of Bear Scat and ensure that it stays online until Bear Tracks meets its functionality.

Peter Rychlik: I think now that funding is a two-way street and that sometimes you have to cut what's needed or what's been popular for certain things that are of more immediate importance. But you have to be careful what you cut and what you don't. Just because something's popular doesn't mean it's always right—sometimes it's just got to be curtailed a little.

2 Do you think the Students' Union should continue to invest funding into financially draining projects such as the Powerplant?

Dollansky: No. We need to stop losing money. The Powerplant is an example of a venue where the University has taken their sweet time on getting to the table with the Students' Union, and we need to put an end to that procrastination. We need to provide a clear vision for the 'Plant that will be profitable and meet the needs of both our services and our business operations that could have a potential home there.

Rychlik: No, and here's why: because there's many other venues for things like concerts and stuff on campus that the Powerplant does not need to facilitate. The Powerplant isn't very well built for something like that and other events, and the Powerplant could definitely use being shut down for a little while, reorganized, and re-marketed and re-branded. Because the Powerplant right now also is suffering from the stigma of being a very empty and very draining place. And no one really wants to be there.

3 What kind of projects or services would you like to see more of the SU's budget and time being spent on?

Dollansky: I think we need to enhance the online components of our services. The future of a lot of what the SU does is going to be conducted online, and I think we need to prepare for that. I think that the Students' Union should invest significant funds into ensuring that we're getting the most out of our building's lower level, and we need to renovate that space in order to make it more visible and inviting a place for students to go.



RYAN HEISE AND PETE YEE

MO' MONEY, MO' PROBLEMS Both Peter Rychlik and Steven Dollansky want to be in charge of student dollars.

Rychlik: Services such as the Access Fund for students that are definitely in dire need. I had a couple friends of mine who couldn't attend university this year because they didn't have enough money, and the Access Fund couldn't help them out in the end. Also—this is part of my platform—renovating RATT's kitchens. Reducing waiting times, and getting new equipment in there. Some of that equipment pre-dates RATT, and that's another reason you have to wait 50 minutes for fries, and that's ridiculous. It'll pay for itself in a year once it's renovated. So things that students use most often for recreation, studying—those definitely need to be focused on more. Also, maybe getting some new computers into the Students' Union Building would be nice too.

4 Is there anything you think the SU is over-funding to the

point where it is under-funding or harming other projects?

Dollansky: I think that the Powerplant is the obvious answer to a business operation that we continue to sink resources into, and we're not receiving the benefits out of that investment. We need to find a solution to that problem immediately over the summer. Because if September rolls around and we're still putting more money into the Powerplant, that's simply unacceptable. I think there are a number of areas for increased investment. Advocacy is one, and as I mentioned before, increasing the visibility of our services, both online and in our building, would be perhaps a more beneficial usage of Students' Union money.

Rychlik: I could definitely see the Van Vliet Centre and physical education getting something more in that sense. Because I go there everyday, and the

showers are horrible. There's about 25 showers and maybe ten working at any one time, and the hot water just doesn't last. So there's a few improvements such as the Phys Ed department which could use a little help. Same with Humanities and just more advocacy for a student-friendly environment, such as wireless in the Humanities, could definitely be worked on.

5 How would you survive the Zombie Apocalypse?

Dollansky: I would definitely have to recruit an army of robots to fight off the zombies on my behalf.

Rychlik: I wouldn't do the whole *Ctrl+Alt+Del* thing and put peanut-butter sandwiches behind my book shelf, but I would definitely have to go with the old shotgun-axe combo and then find a bunker where I can hide.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2008/2009 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009 and pays \$1950.51/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2008/2009 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager Steve Smith (492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 7 March 2008.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj/s

Two countries for crazy old men

TAKE A STROLL DOWN ANY EDMONTON STREET right now and you're sure to bear witness to an endless trail of election campaign signs pledging loyalty to one party or another. By now, you've also probably noticed the first signs of the annual parade of nonsense that is the SU election poster campaign, plastered on every spare billboard around campus. But while it's easy to get caught up in the democratic spirit, it's even easier to ignore the kind of political activity that's been happening outside our borders in the past week.

After 49 years in power, Cuban leader Fidel Castro said that he wouldn't seek re-election last Tuesday. Though he has been ailing for several years, this still marks the somewhat surprising end of an era on the world's political stage. A polarizing revolutionary seen as a tyrant by one generation and a freedom fighter by another, Fidel Castro became one of the most recognizable leaders in the world and a father-figure to many of his most fervent supporters.

On Sunday, Fidel's brother Raúl assumed duties as Cuban president after being elected by the National Assembly. Although hopes were high for a new era in Cuba's history, much talk surrounding Raúl's succession has been pessimistic—especially after his promises to continue the policies laid out by Fidel's communist government during his time in office.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice displayed vocal opposition to the country's move, stating that Cuban citizens should be able "to choose their leaders in democratic elections." Considering the 77-year-old Raúl is another throwback to Cuba's old-world rule, and his second-in-command, José Ramón Machado, is a year older, it appears that Cuba will be short-changed on any sort of forward-thinking hope—at least for a few more years.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe has announced an election on 29 March. Another of the member of the "president-for-life" club, the 84-year-old Mugabe has been in power since 1980, when Zimbabwe gained its independence from British colonial rule. In the less than three decades under his grip, the country has slipped into a rapid freefall of unemployment, inflation, and rampant social disaster.

While Mugabe claims to support democracy by allowing "free" elections, history has proven that the democratic process is anything but balanced. During the last vote in 2002, Mugabe defeated opponent Morgan Tsvangirai with a 56.2 per cent majority. However, public outcry occurred when it was revealed that many citizens were prevented from voting, caught in a web of democratic manipulation and violence.

Mugabe has stated that he won't allow Western observers into the country for the elections in March and has already started a smear campaign against his opponents, comparing former finance minister Simba Makoni to a prostitute and labelling Makoni's opposition to his rule as "absolutely disgraceful."

The most shocking chapter of this tale, however, isn't the country's 100 000-per-cent inflation or the leader's self-indulgent birthday celebrations amid mass poverty and starvation—it's that despite 28 years of such tragedy, the problem has gone largely ignored by the Western world, which is concerned with the more trendy "Darfurnatism," throwing money at problems they don't understand in other African nations because George Clooney said it was the cool thing to do.

Although there's little that a single person can do for a country like Zimbabwe, whose leader wants nothing to do with the West, an increasing awareness of the issue, especially with an upcoming election, is a contribution that's likely to be worth far more than any nameless donation to a faceless corporation vowing to "cure" the political strife in Darfur, Rwanda, or whatever other African nation happens to be the next focus of the media's attention.

Here in Edmonton, we're lucky to have a reasonably transparent political system, despite the mudslinging between our campus and provincial leaders. It's important remember these global tales when the call to vote arrives for you next week—democracy is a right that few of us have and even fewer practice.

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor



KELSEY TANASIUK

LETTERS

Edmonton kayaking not what it used to be

This university just got wussier. No longer are we the key source of river-running, wave-surfing, badass whitewater kayakers in Alberta. Thanks to poorly planned restructuring by Campus Recreation, one of the best kayaking education programs in the province has been gutted. Students hoping to take up the sport will find the task much more difficult (and likely more expensive).

Last year, the University of Alberta Paddling Society saw over 100 students take the cheapest kayaking classes in Edmonton. Most of the Alberta Whitewater Association-certified instructors of the UAPS are alumni, and they were barely paid enough to pay for their parking. These people are truly dedicated to the sport; almost every summer weekend, they paddle well below skill level to teach us newbies on the river for free.

However, in what seems like a despicable power and money grab, Campus Rec will be buying new boats, running classes themselves, and leaving new kayakers dry on shore staring longingly at the river. The 33-year-old club can no longer offer their cheap classes, keep boats at the pool, run trips without prohibitive amounts paperwork, or generally have a backbone.

Instructors have been surreptitiously hired by Campus Rec from [outside of] the "old guard," and [...] Campus Rec has no plans to run courses on the river. What is the

point of frolicking about the pool without any intention of taking it to the river? [It's also ...] irresponsible—whitewater is dangerous without proper training on the river.

As a member put it, "They just killed the [...] essence of the] kayaking club [...] to replace it with a fleet of boats that will never see the river and instructors that probably have very little interest in fostering the growth of the sport in Edmonton."

Campus Rec's changes seem unavoidable, and it stinks that folks who care deeply about fostering kayaking in the University community have been given the boot. It's time someone says a word of gratitude for their years of dedication.

On behalf of the scores of university students and alumni paddlers who under your leadership learned to eddy out, I want to say thanks to the old guard of the University of Alberta Paddling Society. See you on the river.

JANET MACDONALD
Graduate Studies

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Corrupt 1995 Gateway ignores pleas for justice

For various reasons of my own, I recently filed a complaint against the Gateway. I attended a meeting with Gateway and Students' Union bigwigs and walked away from the meeting feeling my problems with the Gateway were solved.

The next day, I opened up the Valentine's Day issue and read in the contributors list one "Demando—champion of everything unreasonable" listed.

I have few doubts about who the Gateway was referring to. To me this was one more example of the abusive and corrupt culture that seems to perpetuate itself year after year at the Gateway. Abusive because when an MLA writes a letter, it gets titled "More Bitching." Corrupt because I can't see how Todd Babiak's Valentine's Day opinion ever deserved to be published—never mind first in the Managing section.

I would like to live in a world where everyone made an attempt to respect the dignity of others and tried to take their happiness seriously. Perhaps it's about time that students started demanding this from our campus newspaper. We deserve better than this.

RUSSELL ELGERT
7 March, 1995

Holy shit, Noam Chomsky wrote us a letter!

The question of when some published material has racist connotations is often not easy to answer, and in the case of political cartoons, the problem is greatly enhanced by the fact that the primary device is caricature, with familiar symbols used for identification.

It's hard, under such conditions, to avoid racist implications, no matter who is targeted. Whatever one thinks about the cartoon in question, it doesn't begin to compare with the anti-Arab material that floods the media, eliciting no reaction—except from Arab groups, which, lacking power and influence, are ignored.

It seems to me that the response written by Karen Unland and Malcolm Azania was appropriate. As long as the journal remains open to critical comment on its practices, I don't see that any further action is appropriate.

NOAM CHOMSKY
4 March, 1993

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Now you can check out all the old-timey fun for yourself! Just go to www.thegatewayonline.ca and follow the links to the Gateway's digital archives.

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MICHAEL JANZ

Listerites showed Residence Services that they're more than Bantha fodder

PAUL
KNOECHEL



So this is how liberty dies: with thunderous applause." That's a little snippet from a movie you may have heard of called *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. Now, while that movie may have sucked hard and fast in all possible ways, this quote carries some significance for two important reasons: one, it's spoken by Natalie Portman, and if she told me to, I'd eat red-hot coals for her amusement; and two, it's an important reminder to us all that we must never take for granted the liberties that our society affords us.

So, what does an obscure quote from a bad movie and a reference to the eternal vigilance that democracy demands have to do with anything? Well, as you no doubt heard, earlier this month Residence Services attempt abolish the elections for floor coordinators and hall vice-presidents in Lister Hall, opting instead to assign those positions. In other words, they had decided to move from a democratic system to one of unelected appointment.

Luckily, this decision has been thwarted since its ill-fated inception by overwhelming student outcry. And while this issue may have been laid to rest for now, there are still many others that haven't been fully dealt with after being brought about by such a regressive idea.

Now, I'm not going to just sit here and list all the ways that this was a terrible thing that flew in the face of 40 years of tradition, not to mention one of the founding principles on which this country is built. However,

what I do want to focus on is the unsettling and dangerous notion that underlies this decision—the idea that the masses make bad decisions and that you have to step in and save them from themselves.

This is the real core of the issue here and the one that deserves the most attention. While Michael Janz simply focused on the deplorable lack of consultation with students—which is another shovel-full on this whole pile of a situation—compared to the the whole “you're too dumb to be part of a democracy, so let me just take away those votes from you” attitude, it's less deserving of scrutiny. By not addressing this mentality, Residence Services is just going to be the little engine that thought it should, forever chugging towards the idea that Lister would be better without these votes.

Admittedly, when I think of the upcoming elections, I shake my head at the foolishness of democracy and the morons that participate in it. And though I might bitch and moan and lament the idiocy of the human race, I'd much rather have the majority of idiots steering events in one direction or the other instead of allowing a small group of people to decide what's best.

Despite the stereotypes that are thrown around about those that inhabit Lister (often by smug assholes like myself), these people aren't children. They're adults who can participate in a working democracy like anybody else. They're seen as being competent enough to make their own

decisions in the provincial election, and likewise, they should be allowed to do so in regards to where they reside. I don't know if Dima Utgoff, director of Residence Services, even considered that he's not simply messing with some sort of community hall for teenagers, but the home for almost 2000 young men and women.

This issue really comes down to whether you think the students of Lister Hall are capable of making their own decisions about who will be influencing a huge part of the their undergraduate career. Residence Services essentially said that they're smarter and better qualified to assign people to run Lister.

This mentality that you're saving people from themselves is the same justification that many a tyrant has used to oppress the masses. While they may not be planning on invading other empires any time soon, Residence Services has nonetheless said that they know best and that they need to protect the poor, idiot student masses from themselves—I only cringe to see what outcome this has for the relationship between them and the LHSA from now on.

Though students sometimes feel powerless against the administration, Lister showed that when push comes to shove, they're still willing to stand up and make the shot on Residence Services' exhaust port. I'm glad that the students won the day (this year); and just hope that they're prepared to fight this battle for years to come.

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Bridge over troubled traffic only increases congestion



BRIAN GOULD

The first stage might—and that's still a big *might*—spare the immediate Whyte Avenue area. Unfortunately, while increasing the river valley crossing capacity there will take away the main constraint on Gateway Boulevard traffic volumes, it will result in a sharp increase in traffic across Whyte Avenue. Bigger and better cities abandoned this type of project long ago because it doesn't make sense to trade destinations for roads.

When these roads inevitably need “upgrading,” we'll start tearing down heritage buildings, and the whole area will lose its character and ability to differentiate itself from the rest of Edmonton. People will stop caring about Old Strathcona, and that's when a full-blown freeway will gain support.

There's a persistent 1950s school of transportation-engineering thought that claims that traffic is like water and that roads are like pipes: when one backs up, water will simply spill over into other pipes. So if a city's a house, these engineers are the plumbers—but while the water metaphor is apt, their interpretation is only partially correct. If a major road backs up, some drivers will short-cut on side streets, but widening the road isn't a solution at all.

Just like a pressurized pipe, widening a road means more flow and more turbulence, and a temporarily free-flowing Gateway Boulevard would only encourage more cars to clog it up. When one of these big, ugly pipes fills up, they need to swap it out for a smaller, more efficient pipe instead; congested roads will then encourage people to start taking the free-flowing

Over the summer, with the debate on the 23 Avenue and Gateway Boulevard interchange raging, I wondered how far City Council would be willing to go to speed long-distance commuters downtown. Building the interchange won't fix the perceived problem, only move it somewhere else—so I asked if they were prepared to run a freeway through the heart of Old Strathcona and Whyte Avenue and destroy the river valley to build a bridge.

Earlier this month, I got my answer—and in case you're keeping score, I was only off on the timeline. I thought they'd at least wait for the interchange to be built, but only five months later they've already got their sights set on the next “traffic crisis.”

Masquerading as a replacement for the aging Walterdale Bridge at 105 Street, a proposed wider bridge connecting to Gateway Boulevard is quickly becoming a freeway starter pack, with overpasses, off-ramps, and new sections of road being trenched across a park and through two blocks of apartments.

The proposed road will split the Fringe site in two and will need retaining walls and pedestrian bridges—something that will only exacerbate the existing wrong-side-of-the-tracks problem.



SAM BROOKS

PEANUT BUTTER AND TRAFFIC JAM SANDWICH New roads help in the short term, but eventually, they'll end up like this.

buses, unclogging the pipes in the process.

Unfortunately, when you let these plumbers in the door, they just won't leave. Once they “fix” a pipe in one place, it just clogs in another while that bigger new pipe just fills right back up. But it's when they're allowed to stay too long that they start to do real damage. Suddenly, they're not just plumbers—they're interior decorators offering to spruce the place up with a nice new faucet or jacuzzi. And when you buy in to those ideas,

your water bill shoots through the roof.

We've been letting plumbers push out the interior decorators in this city for too long, and the results are places like South Edmonton Common: one big room with a thousand showerheads, all running full tilt. Leave them alone, and the piping starts working its way into the structure of the house—and you're left with Edmonton's endless sprawl and the highest car dependency in Canada.

It's five months later, and we have

a new, hopefully more forward-thinking City Council. We should be focusing on smarter strategies—a simple carpool lane would do wonders—but here we are, standing on the precipice of a honking, screeching mess of a freeway through the best part of the city.

The transportation department report even admits that it's just going to clog again once it gets closer to downtown, and there's no obvious route for southbound traffic. So I ask again: how far are we willing to go?

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